

Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 113 - Number 27 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, April 13, 2000



Inmate found unconscious at local jail

An inmate at the Rockcastle County Detention Center was apparently beaten unconscious in a fight at the local jail last Thursday night.

Rockcastle County Jailer James Miller said that Roy Lee Sturgill, 26, was found lying in the floor next to a cell door, by a deputy jailer who was making his rounds.

Miller said that Sturgill was taken to the Rockcastle Hospital and later transferred to the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

Miller said the deputy jailer had made a cell check only 38 minutes before he found Sturgill.

Another inmate, Frankie Lynn Powell, 20, was charged with first degree assault, after Sturgill got a warrant for him.

Miller said that he, too, would file charges against Powell to recover medical expenses incurred by the detention center after Sturgill's treatment at Rockcastle and U.K.

Miller said that after Sturgill was found unconscious and transported to the hospital his staff did a complete search of the cell where the incident had occurred, but found no drugs or alcohol.

Miller said that Sturgill told them after he regained consciousness that he and Powell had been drinking some "home brew" they had made.

Miller said that he did not know how many other inmates had drunk the liquid, but that three of the inmates in the cell were trustees and worked in the jail's kitchen.

Miller said he thought that they had been saving the fruit that they were supposed to be eating and had used some bread, kool-aid and water to make the substance in a trash bag.

"They had had to make the stuff in the last week, because that cell was searched eight to ten days before the incident," Miller said.

Miller said that the trustees who worked in the kitchen had been stripped of their privileges and put in lock down because of the incident.

Miller said that he was continuing his investigation into the incident, but that he did not think any of the deputy jailers at the detention center were involved.

He said that about a week ago, some "home brew" was found in the kitchen, but that none of it had apparently been drunk.

Miller said that all detention centers have the problem of "home brew" because it is so easy to make and it is hard to find trustees that can be trusted to work in the kitchen.

"Some of those inmates in that cell are alcoholics and they would do anything for a drink," Miller said.

"We even have to keep our cleaning chemicals under lock and key because of the alcoholics being held," he said.

According to court records, Sturgill is listed as a witness in a case against Powell, which may have ignored the altercation.

Miller said that when a new prisoner is brought into the detention center, they are asked a number of questions, including whether or not they would have a problem with any other inmate.

Miller said Sturgill told them he did not and when Miller told him he would be put into a cell with Powell and other local inmates, he said it was o.k. because they were friends.

According to Miller, Sturgill said that Powell put some dominos into a sock and used it as weapon to strike Sturgill in the head the night he was found unconscious.

Miller said his staff found the sock full of dominos when they searched his cell.

Powell is being held in lock-down and will appear in Rockcastle District Court on Monday to face the assault charges.

Sturgill, who was being held for unpaid fines, has filled bond and was released from jail.

School out on Saturday, May 27

The Rockcastle County Board of Education approved a change in the school calendar that will make Saturday May 27th the final day of school this year.

School will be dismissed at approximately 10:00 a.m. with graduation ceremonies at Rockcastle County High School scheduled for 2 p.m. that afternoon.



Livingston and Mt. Vernon firefighters and EMT's with the Rockcastle Ambulance service worked a two car wreck on U.S. 25 at Burr Tuesday afternoon that sent five people to the hospital, three of whom were Rockcastle County High School students. Three of the five injured were treated at Rockcastle Hospital and later transferred to the University of Kentucky Medical Center.



Five injured in two car crash

Five Rockcastle County residents were injured, three seriously, in a two car crash on Hwy. 25 near Burr Tuesday afternoon.

According to Rockcastle County Deputy Sheriff Darrell Doan, the wreck occurred after Rockcastle County High School freshman Paul Douglas Hayes, 16, of Mt. Vernon lost control of pick-up as he traveled toward Livingston on 25, shortly after school was dismissed.

Doan said that Hayes' pick-up became sideways on the wet pavement and struck a Chevrolet Blazer driven by Roy Baugh, 44, of Orlando, as Baugh and his wife Kathy, 42, traveled toward Mt. Vernon.

After the two vehicles collided, Baugh's Blazer struck a rock wall and Hayes' vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree.

Members of the Livingston and Mt. Vernon Fire Departments had to use the jaws of life apparatus to free Michael Wyatt, 19, a passenger in Hayes' vehicle from the wrecked pick-up. Another passenger, Coy D. Kirby, 18, of Mt. Vernon received only minor injuries. Wyatt is a senior at RCHS and Kirby is a sophomore.

All five people were treated at Rockcastle Hospital. Wyatt and the Baughs were later transferred to the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington with multiple injuries. Hayes was admitted to Rockcastle for a possible head injury and Kirby was treated and released.

Doan said that he did not think any drugs or alcohol were involved in the wreck and that the wet pavement probably caused Hayes' truck to hydro-plane.

Congressman Rogers in county on Tuesday

U.S. Representative Harold "Bud" Rogers of Somerset, will be at the Rockcastle County High School on Tuesday, to meet with local officials, community leaders and concerned citizens to discuss the region's plans for economic development. The plans will be on the agenda at a luncheon meeting to begin at 11:30 a.m. in the school auditorium.

Community leaders have worked to prepare a Community Development Concept Plan which calls for the establishment of an economic development corridor which is envisioned to create growth, jobs and tourism opportunities for visitors all over the world. Rogers encouraged local officials to develop the comprehensive plan in meeting with the local development board in the summer of 1998.

Large shortage in census workers

Rockcastle County residents have until April 19th to mail in their 2000 census forms.

According to statistics from the census office in Corbin, only 50 percent of the short forms and 20 percent of the long forms have been mailed in nationwide.

A door to door campaign will begin in the next two weeks, but local coordinator Carolyn Gartart, said she cannot find enough people to fill the positions for the door to door campaign.

Earnhart said that 1,400 people will be hired in a 24 county area that includes Rockcastle and that if there

"Anyone planning to take a long journey must begin the trip with a road map and that's the idea behind this economic plan," Rogers said. "This community development plan gives us a look at what our destination will be and what it will take to create new jobs, preserve our heritage and open up our area wider to tourism. I look forward to discussing this plan with the Rockcastle County Development Board and other community leaders on Tuesday," Rogers said.

Congressman Rogers will also discuss the progress of the Kentucky PRIDE campaign. The region-wide PRIDE - Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment - Spring Clean Up is scheduled for April 15th through the 28th.

isn't enough local people apply for the jobs, people from other counties will have to be used.

Prospective census workers must pass a test, but once they do they can work as many as four hours a week and be paid \$8.75 per hour and 32.5 cents a mile. Crew leaders are paid \$10.25 per hour.

Results of the census determine how millions and millions of federal and state tax dollars are spent each year and it also determines how many U.S. Representatives a state has to represent them in Washington.

For information about becoming a census worker call 1-888-303-7733.

Athletes at RCHS will be tested for drug use

School Board adopts new policy Tuesday night

By Richard Anderkin
All student athletes at the Rockcastle County High School will be tested for drug use, thanks to a new policy passed by the Rockcastle County Board of Education on Tuesday night.

The new drug testing policy will go into effect at the beginning of 2000-2001 school year in August.

Rockcastle County School Superintendent Larry Hammond said the board had been considering such a policy for the past two years and that numerous other school districts in the area already had a drug testing policy.

Hammond said that because students other than athletes are required to go to school, they cannot be tested by law. But because student athletes volunteer to participate in athletics they can be required to take such a test.

Hammond said that he would form a committee to come up with a procedures policy on the drug testing, which will be in place by the beginning of school.

He said that each athlete in each sport, including cheerleaders and student managers would be required to take a drug test at the beginning of each season and that random testing would be done throughout the season. He said that students playing more than one sport, would only be required to take the test once a year, unless they were chosen at random for a test during the year.

The policy adopted by the board on Tuesday night follows:

Eligibility Athletics
Determination of athletic eligibility shall be made in compliance with applicable policies, administrative procedures, and Kentucky High School Athletic Association requirements.

DRUG TESTING PROGRAM
The District has established drug-testing program for student athletes for the following reasons:

1. The District has reason to believe that some student athletes are using illegal drugs.
2. Student athletes often serve as role models for other stu-

dents.
3. Through participation in athletics, students using illegal drugs pose a threat to their own health and safety, as well as to that of other students.

Each student who plans to participate in athletics at the high school level and his/her parent or guardian shall sign a written consent for drug testing as a prerequisite to the student's participation in an athletic program.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to reasonably ensure student privacy during the taking of samples, security of samples once obtained, and designation of laboratory services that are accurate and reliable. Appropriate measures shall be taken to protect student confidentiality throughout the testing process and in the handling of test results.

(Cont. to A8)

Holbrook named Democrat Chair

Rockcastle County's First District Magistrate John E. Holbrook, 64, of Renfro Valley, was elected as chairman of the local democrat party in elections held Saturday at the Rockcastle County Courthouse. Precinct elections were held the week before at each of the county's 13 precincts.

Holbrook is currently serving a second term as the county's only democrat office holder.

He takes over as chairman from LeRoy Brown, who did not seek reelection to the post.

Besides Holbrook's election as chairman on Saturday, Brenda Lovell, 38, of Moreburg was named vice-chairman.

Members of the executive committee which includes Holbrook and Lovell were also elected. They are: Judy Doyle, Larry Doyle, Arnold Brown, Shawn Tracy Poynter, Alesha Brady, Sandy Payne, Karen King, Denver Burton, Judy Duerson, Joy Bullen, Tammy McKinney, Corey Craig, Bobby Bullen, Katherine Bullen, Wayne Stewart, Ruby Stewart and LeRoy Brown.



Ronnie McClure of Mt. Vernon finished fifth in the EverStart Batteries Series Bass Tournament held on Lake Cumberland last week. For his efforts, McClure received a check for \$7,000. The local angler led 30 of the nation's top professional fishermen into Friday's second round, before eventually finishing in fifth place.